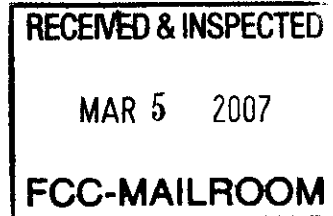


EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Eric N. Einhorn  
VP Federal Government Affairs  
Windstream Communications, Inc.  
4001 Rodney Parham Road  
Little Rock, AR 72212



March 1, 2007

**By Mail**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

Re: ***Ex Parte Communication***  
**WC Docket No. 05-337; CC Docket No. 01-92; CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

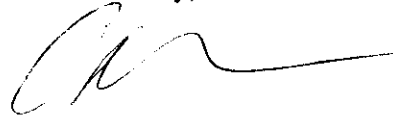
On February 28, 2007, Jeff Gardner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Keith Paglusch, Chief Operating Officer, Mike Rhoda, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, and I, all from Windstream Communications, met with Commissioner Tate and her legal advisor Ian Dillner and then subsequently with Michelle Carey, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Martin. Today, we also met with Commissioner McDowell and John Hunter, Commissioner McDowell's Chief of Staff. At the meetings, consistent with the attached document, we provided details about Windstream and its operations. We also described Windstream's forward-looking approach to its business and how that approach is reflected in our regulatory philosophy. We expressed our concern that the current universal service system does properly target support to high-cost areas and that reform is urgently needed. We also briefly discussed our support for the Missoula Plan consistent with our filings in the docket.

Specifically, with regard to universal service reform, we explained that even for an efficient company like Windstream, explicit high-cost support is needed to provide quality service at affordable rates to our consumers in rural and high-cost areas. The current rules, however, create irrational outcomes that affect consumers in high-cost areas and do not recognize the competitive realities of the marketplace. As such, Windstream supports rational universal service reform that will target adequate and efficient explicit support to high-cost areas.

No. of Copies rec'd 0+6  
List A B C D E

You may reach me by email ([eric.n.einhorn@windstream.com](mailto:eric.n.einhorn@windstream.com)) or by phone in my DC office (202-997-9387) if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric N. Einhorn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

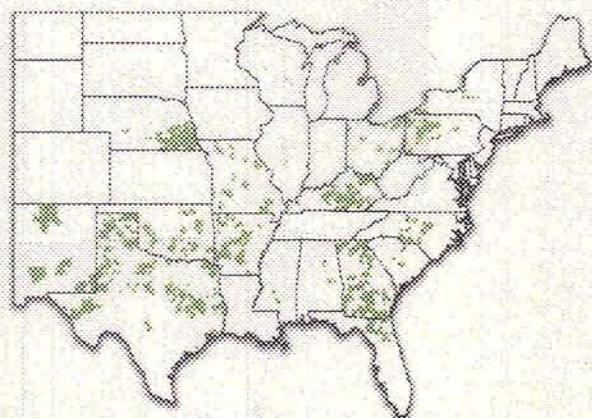
Eric N. Einhorn

cc (by e-mail):      Michelle Carey  
                             Ian Dillner  
                             John Hunter



# windstream

Windstream is the largest communications and entertainment provider focused on rural America, with customers in 16 states.

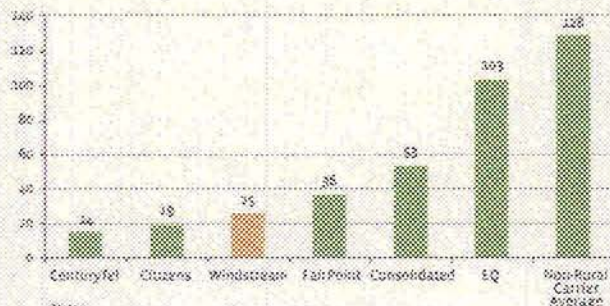


**Geographic Footprint**

## Operating Statistics as of 12/31/06

States: 16  
Access lines: 3.2M  
Long-distance customers: 2.0M  
Broadband subscribers: 656K  
Revenue: \$3.2B  
Total Employees: 8,000

## Access Lines per Square Mile

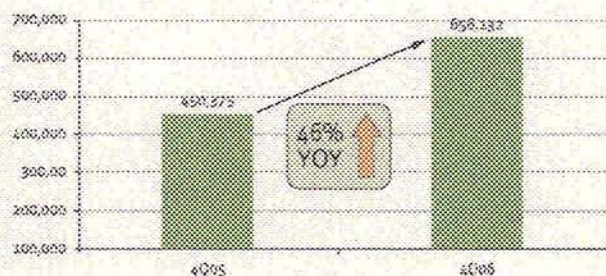


Notes:  
Pro Forma for CenturyTel's acquisition of Madison River  
Pro Forma for Citizens' acquisition of Commonwealth  
Pro Forma for FairPoint acquisition of Verizon's New England access lines  
Source: Public filings and investor presentations

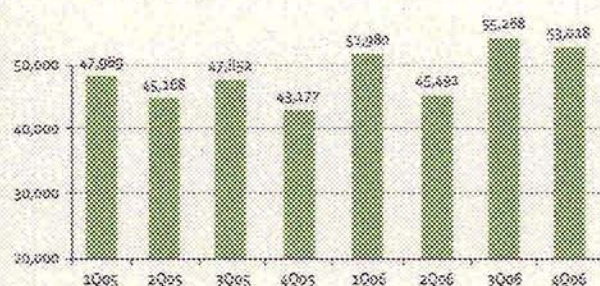
## 2006 Broadband Highlights

- Added 206k net broadband customers in 2006
- Increased broadband addressability to 80% and penetration to 21% of total ILEC lines
- Improved broadband speeds (as % of BB addressable lines)
  - DSL Ultra (3Mb) 80%
  - DSL Extreme (6Mb) 22%
- ~21% of broadband customers subscribe to 3Mb speeds and higher.

## Broadband Customer Base Year-Over-Year



## Net Broadband Additions by Quarter



windstream.com